

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 07245 231826Z

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SUBJ: SULLIVAN/CHESTER STAFFDEL

REF: STATE 266308, DAKAR 6923

SUMMARY. JOHN H SULLIVAN AND JOHN CHAPMAN CHESTER, STAFF CONSULTANTS, HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SPENT DEC 12-18 IN SENEGAL. THEY RECEIVED MISSION BRIEFING, MET WITH GOS AND OMVS OFFICIALS, AND VISITED PC VILLAGE PROJECTS AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECT SITES.

1. SULLIVAN AND CHESTER WERE GIVEN MISSION BRIEFING EARLY ON DEC 13 AND ON SAME MORNING MET WITH OMVS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OMAR SAKHO. SAKHO WAS JOINED BY MESSRS BA (TRANSPORT), KONARE (HYDRAULICS), KANE (AGRICULTURE) AND N'DIAYE (HYDRAULICS). FACT THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE AT BEGINNING OF LONG TABASKI WEEKEND AND DURING PREPARATIONS FOR OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT DEC 16 UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY OMVS TO USG INTEREST IN THE PROJECT. MEETING WAS DEVOTED MAINLY TO TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS BY OMVS EXPERTS AND FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS. SAKHO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD CONTRIBUTE TOWARD \$ 365 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE COST OF OMVS PROJECTS, TO WHICH STAFFDELS RESPONDED BY NOTING QUESTION WAS UNDER INTENSIVE REVIEW BY WASHINGTON.

2. SULLIVAN AND CHESTER ACCOMPANIED BY ECON-COMMERCIAL OFFICER, TWO AID STAFF MEMBERS AND PC VOLUNTEER DEPARTED DAKAR FOR ST LOUIS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAKAR 07245 231826Z

DEC 15. THEY STOPPED EN ROUTE TO VISIT PC RURAL DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTEER AT DARA PALMEO. IN FLEUVE, GROUP VISITED VILLAGE COOPERATIVE AT RONKH WHICH HAS USED AID R&R ASSISTANCE TO BRING 350 HECTARES UNDER FOODGRAIN AND CASH-CROP CULTIVATION.

3. VISITS TO IRRIGATED PERIMETERS AND PC RURAL DEVELOPMENT SITES ALONG SENEGAL RIVER TOOK PLACE DEC 16. GROUP WAS JOINED BY CHEIKH CISSOKHO, DIRECTOR OF SAED (SOCIETE DE L'AMENAGEMENT ECONOMIQUE DU DELTA) AND MR BA, HIS ASSISTANT. SAED IS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR FLEUVE REGION, AND EFFICACY OF ITS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IS KEY TO SUCCESS OF OMVS IN SENEGAL. IT HAS BEGUN GROUPING FARMERS INTO COOPERATIVES TO WORK AREAS WHERE IRRIGATION WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE BY DAMS. GROUP VISITED SAED WORKSHOP AND GRAIN STORAGE WAREHOUSE AT ROSS-BETHIO, IRRIGATED PERIMETERS OF LAMPSAR AND DAGNA, AND PC RURAL DEVELOPMENT VILLAGE AT MBAGAM. EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF SAED POLICIES WITH CISSOKHO AND BA WERE INTERWOVEN THROUGH SITE VISITS. SAED DIRECTOR NOTED THAT GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE AGRO-BUSINESS INVESTMENT EXIST IN AREA. GROUP RETURNED TO ST LOUIS EVENING OF DEC 16 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL PC VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN REGION.

4. GROUP CALLED ON MR SALL, DIRECTOR OMVS DOCUMENTATION CENTER AT ST LOUIS DEC 17 AM. SALL EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING COPIES OF ANY STUDIES PUBLISHED IN US ON SENEGAL RIVER BASIN AND ANY AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF AREA. (FORMAL REQUEST HAS BEEN SUBMITTED THROUGH AID RDO). CENTER IS WELL EQUIPPED WITH MICROFICHE STORAGE/RETRIEVAL SYSTEM FOR ITS 10,000 DOCUMENTS AND ACCESS TO COMPUTER IN DAKAR.

5. GROUP RETURNED DAKAR AFTERNOON DEC 17 WHERE IT MET WITH MRS PHEBIAN WHEST-ALLEGRE, DIRECTOR OF PRIVATE CROIX BLEUE CLINIC, ONLY FACILITY IN SENEGAL OFFERING MATERNAL-CHILD CASE/FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. MRS WHEST-ALLEGRE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FAMILY PLANNING IN SENEGAL WOULD GATHER SUFFICIENT MOMENTUM TO ALLOW OTHER CLINICS TO OPEN BEFORE HER PATHFINDER ASSISTANCE IS PHASED OUT.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT. CHESTER AND SULLIVAN WERE WELL PREPARED FOR THEIR VISIT TO SENEGAL, AND MADE EXCELLENT USE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCUSSIONS. GOS AND OMVS OFFICIALS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAKAR 07245 231826Z

EXTENDED EVERY COURTESY AND COOPERATION TO GROUP. EMBASSY CONSIDERS VISIT VERY SUCCESSFUL.
AGGREY

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